## **BROOKLYN BOOKS**

The idea for this topic came about because of my tendency to hopelessly confuse the plots of "The History of Love" and "The Brooklyn Follies." While trying to beat my brain into submission, I came to the realization that there really are a lot of writers living in Brooklyn and (probably) hence a lot of books set in Brooklyn. Below a sampling of some of the best:

Brooklyn by Colm Toibin. NY: Scribner, 2009. 262pp

On the insistence of her mother and sister, Ellis reluctantly leaves Ireland for a presumably better life in the Irish Catholic Brooklyn of the sixties.

Brooklyn Follies by Paul Auster. NY: Holt, 2006, 306pp

Nathan Glass is looking for a quiet place to die after a bout with cancer and a divorce. "Someone recommended Brooklyn." What he finds instead is a "vital, big-hearted borough" filled with eccentric and charming characters.

The Heights by Peter Hedges. NY: Dutton, 2010, 295pp.

Kate and Tim are living the perfect life in the upscale Brooklyn Heights neighborhood, when two newcomers, a glamorous wealthy women and a handsome TV actor, bring unsettling changes.

The History of Love by Nicole Kraus. NY: Norton, 2005. 252pp

Leo Gursky, an elderly Holocaust survivor who spends his time trying to be noticed, and Alma Singer, a 14 year old who spends her time trying to save her mother and brother from their grief, end up saving each other.

Motherless Brooklyn by Jonathan Lethem. NY: Doubleday, 1999. 311pp

An orphanage graduate and Tourette syndrome sufferer, Lionel Essrog scours Brooklyn and its environs for the killer of his boss, a small time wise guy.

Prospect Park West by Amy Sohn. NY: S&S, 2009. 379pp

A satire of self absorbed social climbers, this novel follows four very flawed Brooklyn moms, in trendy Park Slope, an upscale Brooklyn neighborhood.

Snow in August by Peter Hamill. Boston: Little, 1997. 327pp

In 1940's Brooklyn, an 11 year old Irish Catholic boy and an elderly Jewish rabbi form an unlikely but mutually beneficial alliance.

Sunset Park by Paul Auster. NY: Holt, 2010. 309pp

A look at the lives of four artists squatting in the Sunset Park borough in Brooklyn, and the unlikely paths that led them there.